

REMARKS

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant has resubmitted the Information Disclosure Statement including legible copies of the other prior art - non patent literature documents. Applicant requests consideration of these references.

Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification because of an informality. Applicant has corrected the informality by amendment. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, this objection has been overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 2-9, 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner objected to the use of “intended use” language referring to the “for” statements. Applicant has amended the claims to eliminate this language. Therefore, this rejection has been overcome.

Further, the Examiner rejected claims 9 and 18 indicating, “said first direction” and “said second direction” lack antecedent basis. Applicant has amended claim 1 to positively claim these directions. Therefore, this rejection has been overcome.

With respect to claim 15, the Examiner indicates that it is misdescriptive to state that the second mating connector is on the second panel unit. The Examiner also indicates that “said third mating connector” lacks antecedent basis. Applicant has

addressed these concerns by amending claim 15. Therefore, this rejection of claim 15 has been overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner reviewed claims 1-20 and rejected claims 1-16 and 18-20. Claim 17 was objected to but the Examiner indicated this claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In addition, the Examiner indicated claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7-10, 13-16 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Weir*. Furthermore, the Examiner rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Meyerson* (6,314,701). Finally, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7-16, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Meyerson* in view of *Weir*. Applicant believes the claims as now amended stand in condition for allowance over the cited references.

Claim 1 has been amended to require, “a first flexible snap fit connector” and “a second flexible snap fit connector,” both of which are located on a first panel unit, the first snap fit connector is arranged to engage a first mating connector along a first direction and the second flexible snap fit connector is arranged to engage a second mating connector along a second direction transfers to the first direction. Accordingly, claim 1 requires two flexible snap fit connectors on a panel engageable to two mating connectors in two different directions. These features are not shown by *Weir*. *Weir* does not teach two flexible snap fit connectors on the same panel. Therefore, claim 1 and its dependents, claims 3-12, stand in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 13 also requires similar limitations of a panel unit having two flexible snap fit connectors, each snap fit connector engaging mating connectors along two different directions. For this reason, claim 13 and its dependents, claims 14-19, stand in condition for allowance.

The Examiner further rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Meyerson* (6,314,701). Claim 20 has been amended to require, “a flexible snap fit connector arranged to engage a mating connector along a second axis transverse to said first axis.” The first axis is the axis in which the insulating body extends. This feature is not shown by *Meyerson*. The connector of *Meyerson* is engageable to a mating connector along the same axis that the insulating body extends. Therefore, claim 20 is in condition for allowance.

Finally, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7-16, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Meyerson* (6,314,701) in view of *Weir*. However, the combination of references do not teach a first flexible snap fit connector and a second flexible snap fit connector on a panel, each of the flexible snap fit connectors arranged to connect with respective mating connectors along two different directions. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 7-16, 18 and 19 stand allowable over the combination of *Meyerson* in view of *Weir*. Furthermore, Applicant has added new claims 21 and 22 which Applicant believes is allowable over the cited references.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests allowance of claims 1, 3-22.

Applicant believes that additional fees in the amount of \$250.00 are required for one claim in excess of twenty and one additional independent claim. A check in the amount of \$250.00 is enclosed. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-

1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS

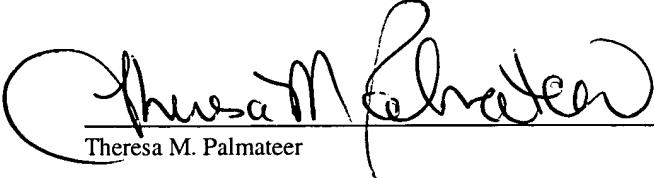
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Dated: August 9, 2005

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 9, 2005.


Theresa M. Palmateer

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